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# AP<sup>®</sup> United States History

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

### **Inside:**

#### **Short Answer Question 1**

- Scoring Guideline**
- Student Samples**
- Scoring Commentary**

**Question 1: Short Answer Secondary Source****3 points****General Scoring Notes**

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

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- (A)** Briefly describe ONE major difference between Stamppp’s and Foner’s historical interpretation of the Reconstruction period. **1 point**

**Examples that earn this point include the following:**

- Stamppp argues that Reconstruction was generally a success, but Foner argues that, regardless of how you look at it, Reconstruction was a failure.
- Stamppp argues that the enactment of Constitutional amendments laid the groundwork for long-term change, while Foner states that racism continued to influence American politics and society negatively.
- Stamppp argues the benefits of Reconstruction policies and amendments outweigh the failures of the era while Foner notes the end of Reconstruction contributed to the spread of racism in United States society, resulting in a failure that outweighs the minimal benefits.

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- (B)** Briefly explain how ONE specific historical event or development not directly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Stamppp’s argument. **1 point**

**Examples that earn this point include the following:**

- During Reconstruction a number of African American men were elected to local, state, and federal positions, which supports Stamppp’s argument about the positive impact of Reconstruction.

**Examples that earn this point might include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:**

- The Republican Party shifted from issues of race and equality to issues of business and finance.
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- Institution of and expansion of some basic rights guaranteed through the Reconstruction amendments and other Reconstruction-era laws and programs:
  - Freedmen’s Bureau
  - Civil Rights Act of 1864
  - Thirteenth Amendment and elaboration on the effects of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments
- Segments of the African American community rose above their initial economic status.

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**(C)** Briefly explain how ONE specific historical event or development not directly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Foner’s argument. **1 point**

**Examples that earn this point include the following:**

- Jim Crow laws were passed in the South and labor, and housing discrimination occurred in the North, with the purpose of establishing social, legal, and economic racial segregation.
- Voting restrictions such as the poll tax and the grandfather clause were created to restrict rights extended to African American men by constitutional amendments during Reconstruction.

**Examples that earn this point might include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:**

- The federal government limited support for the Black community in the Reconstruction period:
  - Elimination of Freedmen’s Bureau
  - No property redistribution
  - No “forty acres and a mule”
- White Southerners retained control of most land and property in the South.
- The sharecropping system emerged.
- The *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision and legal systematic segregation.
- Terrorist organizations like the Ku Klux Klan used violence and the threat of violence.

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**Total for question 1 3 points**

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 1 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

1) Even though both Stampp and Foner saw Reconstruction as a failure, Stampp believed that it was ultimately beneficial in reestablishing the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments, which liberated slaves and gave them voting rights. However, Foner saw Reconstruction as a complete failure which only promoted racism.

b) one specific historical event in the period 1863-1900 that could support Stampp's argument was the establishment of the Freedman's Bureau which was created during Reconstruction to preserve freedoms for freed slaves, such as voting rights. This supports Stampp's argument because the act by the federal government to protect freedmen, and had long lasting benefits that outweighed Reconstruction's faults.

c) one historical development that supports Foner's argument in the period 1863-1900 was the creation of racist intimidation groups or the KKK. The KKK was focused on the harassment of free black people, primarily in the south, in order to scare them out of voting, and keep racist Southern Democrats in power, by suppressing the African American vote. This supports Foner's argument because it is an example of racism spreading as a result of Reconstruction.

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 1 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

a) The major difference between Stamp's and Foner's interpretation of reconstruction is simply that Stamp's deemed it successful in some ways, while Foner's + as a failure. Stamp's + oth. republicans + democrats worked together successfully, while Foner states that segregation spread further.

b). The revival that supports Stamp's claim is the Enlightenment period. Many people started to look towards God as a big revival took the nation. Such a revival brought out a bigger community with many different groups such as republicans and democrats. The revival brought many groups together as a community.

c) One major event that supports Foner's view is the implementation of Jim Crow laws. Such laws separated the people. Blacks were ~~only~~ able to use only things (such as schools, bathrooms, etc) made for them. This brought up further segregation among the people just as Foner stated.

Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 1** on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

a. One major difference between Stamp's & Foner's interpretations of the Reconstruction Era is that Stamp looks at the positive things that came out of the time while Foner just looks at the negatives. For example, in Stamp's interpretation he says, "Even though Republicans failed in their effort to establish an effective and durable organization in the South, they nevertheless emerged from the era of Reconstruction in a powerful position."

b. One historical event that could be used to prove Stamp's argument is the First World War. It was a major point in America's history that showed us even during bad times we can still strive & be successful.

c. One event that could support Foner's argument is the Jim Crow laws. These were laws that strictly targeted African-Americans and tried to keep segregation alive. They showed how bad racism really was and prove that that whole time period was a tragedy.

## Short Answer Question 1

**Note:** Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

### Overview

- This question asked students to describe the difference between two excerpts from secondary source texts about the effects of Reconstruction. The first, by Kenneth Stampp, argued that Reconstruction, despite some failures, had an overall positive impact due to the passage of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. The second, by Eric Foner, argued that Reconstruction was a total failure, resulting in the pervasive expansion of racism.
- Responses had to provide relevant evidence (1863–1900) and explain how it supported each of the arguments found in the excerpts.
- Students had to understand the fundamental differences between the two authors’ views, use evidence to demonstrate how conditions improved for formerly enslaved people as a result of Reconstruction to support Stampp’s view, and then use evidence to show how conditions worsened to support Foner’s view.
- This question focused on analyzing historical evidence and secondary sources.
- This question primarily addressed Topics 5.10 and 5.11.

### Sample: 1A

#### Score: 3

The response for part (a) earned 1 point by correctly identifying the arguments and elaborating, “Even though both Stampp and Foner saw Reconstruction as a failure, Stampp believed that it was ultimately beneficial.”

The response for part (b) earned 1 point for correctly describing the way that the Freedmen’s Bureau protected the rights of freedmen, which included benefits that outweighed Reconstruction’s faults.

The response for part (c) earned 1 point for the correct explanation of how the Ku Klux Klan harassed free Black people by scaring them out of voting and keeping “racist Southern Democrats” in power.

### Sample: 1B

#### Score: 2

The response for part (a) earned 1 point because it elaborates on Stampp’s position on Reconstruction that “deemed it successful in some ways.” The response accurately notes that Foner viewed Reconstruction a failure and that “segregation spread further.”

The response for part (b) did not earn a point because the evidence of the Enlightenment is outside the time period and unrelated to the prompt.

The response for part (c) did earn 1 point because it correctly elaborates, using evidence of Jim Crow laws to support Foner’s argument.

### Sample: 1C

#### Score: 1

The response for part (a) did not earn a point because it simply restates the arguments in a simple way without elaboration and relies on quoting the prompts.

**Short Answer Question 1 (continued)**

The response for part (b) did not earn a point because the evidence of the First World War does not support Stamp's argument and is out of the time period.

The response for part (c) earned 1 point for the discussion of Jim Crow laws keeping segregation alive.